



## Newsletter No. 18

14 June 2023

The vision of St Lawrence Catholic Primary School, Balcatta is to share the message of God's love and friendship in a community of learners, developing the full potential of each child.



*“And here the first word that I wish to say to you: joy! Do not be men and women of sadness: a Christian can never be sad! Never give way to discouragement! Ours is not a joy born of having many possessions, but of having encountered a Person: Jesus, in our midst.”*

— Pope Francis, [The Church of Mercy: A Vision for the Church](#)

### **Inspiring Christ-Centre Leaders**

I am very concerned at the number of children who are accessing TikTok and other inappropriate internet sites when at home. You must be over 13 years of age to use TikTok. I remind parents and guardians that users can watch musical clips, record clips, edit them and add special effects.

Why should I be concerned? You need to be aware that some of the videos may contain explicit language and inappropriate imagery, which simply is not suitable for your child to view. There is also the risk of strangers contacting your child.

I ask all parents to be aware of their children's internet searches and the activities they are involved in. It is very concerning that children of primary school age have access to adult content. Of even greater concern is the potential for total strangers to be communicating with your children.

Parents should be aware of what their children see and hear online, who they meet, and what they share about themselves. Talk with your children, use appropriate tools to protect them, and keep an eye on their activities.

If your children are using the Messenger Kids App, I strongly encourage you to monitor the content of the conversations. Though there are no ads or purchases, the privacy policy states that all content (message content and app usage details) is stored and that the information is used to develop new products, which could mean that data will follow your kid into Facebook/Instagram use later on. Parents should weigh the pros and cons of introducing your children to social media environments, given concerns about kids' health and well-being in relation to social media use. Though Facebook designed the app for kids ages 6-12, the recommended age is 13+.

You should read the developer's privacy policy for details on how your (or your children's) information is collected, used, and shared and any choices you may have in the matter, and note that privacy policies and terms of service frequently change.

## **Catholic Schools of Excellence**

Continuing with our Code of Conduct over the next few Newsletters we shall explore each conduct statement and help expand upon the meaning and responsibilities associated with that specific statement.

## **Conduct Statement 2**

**You give priority to students' safety and well-being in all your behaviour and decision making.**

### **Guidelines**

1. You accept that you and all adults have individual and joint responsibility for the safety and well-being of students.
2. You ensure the safety and well-being of students are the primary focus of your actions and decisions and take precedence over any other considerations including the reputation of the school and your own needs.
3. You support the safety, health and well-being of each student, promoting and supporting decisions and behaviour that contribute to the student's self-confidence, safety and well-being.
4. You do not behave in any way that risks creating ambiguity about whether you are acting in the best interests of a student.
5. You respectfully communicate in plain language and in a way the student and those supporting their education can understand so they may fully participate in that education.
6. You support informed decision making by advising the student as appropriate and those supporting their education about education options and assist the student and their supporters to make informed decisions about that education.
7. You endeavour to ensure the voice of the student is heard as appropriate, taking into account age and circumstances.
8. You seek out, welcome, and learn from information relevant to the safety and well-being of students in any form, including advice, disclosures, complaints, criticisms, feedback and performance reviews. You look for opportunities to engage in formal and informal group and self-reflection and professional development about your own and others' decisions so that you and the school can learn and continuously improve.

9. You recognise that all information about students collected by school staff is done so on behalf of the Principal and for the benefit of the student. Therefore, all information is disclosed to and accessible by all who have a need to know it in order to support the education, safety and well-being of the student.

10. You respectfully advocate for the safety and well-being of students above all other considerations.

11. You recognise the importance that students' education continues without interruption or disturbance.

12. You disclose to the Principal any information that a reasonable person would recognise may be relevant to the safety and well-being of students so that the Principal may make appropriate decisions to manage any risk to them. This includes any relationship with any person who may have been accused of harming children or acting unsafely towards them.

13. You recognise that students and their parents are entitled to assume that the sole focus of your engagements with students is to educate them within a safe environment that puts their well-being above all else. You understand that this trust by parents and students puts the onus on you to use your relationship with students solely for their education. You use all engagements with students and their parents, whether in person, through a third party, or via digital media for the purpose of teaching the curriculum.

14. You do not accept gifts or benefits that could be viewed as a means of influencing your objective decision making.

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**Specific Behaviours: Staff**

Students' safety, health and well-being are at the forefront of all decisions and practices.

**Parents**

Student safety is paramount to follow procedures and policies.

**Students**

Be mature and think about how your actions make others feel.

**Volunteers and Visitors**

Student safety is paramount, and any concerns should be reported to staff.

**Catholic Pastoral Communities**

**LEARNING SELF CONTROL**

All children need to learn self-control; it needs to be taught and reinforced. Children need to learn to deal with frustration and to control their disappointment when they do not get their own way or what they want. Managing these times can be very frustrating and challenging for parents, but there are positive and effective ways to help children learn self-control. Learning these skills in childhood certainly has significant benefits for us all as we navigate adulthood.

Children learn self-control when parents use effective discipline to manage misbehaviour that is consistent, immediate and decisive. Set out below are a number of strategies that may assist in developing self-control within children:

1: Establish Clear House Rules

Children require limits to learn what is expected of them and how they should behave. A few basic house rules that are fair and easy to follow are important to establish 'baseline' expectations. The rules should tell children what to do rather than what not to do. e.g., Speak in a pleasant tone, keep your hands and feet to yourself.

## 2: Rule Breaking Learning

When a child occasionally forgets a house rule it is important that you use it as a learning opportunity. Discuss with your child why their actions are not appropriate or acceptable, then describing or getting your child to suggest the correct behaviour. The correct behaviour can then be practiced.

## 3: Deliberately Ignoring Some Misbehaviour

Sometimes minor attention seeking behaviour is best ignored. The child does not get a reward for the behaviour. As soon as they stop the misbehaviour, reward them for doing this! This usually sends a very powerful message about what is acceptable and what is not. Of course, do not ignore more serious misbehaviour; act quickly and decisively.

## 4: Give Clear and Calm Instructions

The way you give instructions influences whether children cooperate or not. The following steps are important:

- a) Get close and gain your child's attention.
- b) Tell your child what they are to do (John, it is time to come inside, please wash your hands.)
- c) Give your child time to cooperate (Pause briefly to give your child time. e.g. 5 seconds)
- d) Praise cooperation.
- e) Repeat the instruction, but only once!

## 5: Back Up Your Instructions with Logical Consequences

If your child does not comply, then choose a consequence that fits the situation. Never threaten a consequence that you cannot follow up on or is too harsh for the circumstances.

The best day of your life is the one on which you decide your life is your own. No apologies or excuses. No one to lean on, rely on, or blame. The gift is yours - it is an amazing journey, and you alone are responsible for the quality of it. We all, each one of us, is responsible for our behaviour, and we sometimes make excuses or blame others, but in reality, we all choose our behaviour. It is best to help our children when they are young to develop the life enhancing skill of self-control.

## **Accessible, Affordable and Sustainable**

Health and Hygiene All staff, students and visitors to the school have a responsibility to protect themselves and others from COVID-19. This may be achieved through ongoing promotion of good hygiene practices:

- Staff, students and visitors should stay home when sick.
- Covering mouth / nose when coughing or sneezing.
- Washing hands regularly for 20 seconds with soap and water.
- Utilising alcohol-based hand sanitiser / wipes throughout the day.
- Practices to reduce direct contact should be considered, particularly over winter.

Ventilation • Schools are required to maintain strong ventilation practices, meaning the use of natural and mechanical modes of air flow through classrooms and indoor spaces.

Consistent and thorough cleaning schedules are maintained throughout the school.

Thank you all for promoting good health and hygiene practices, we all reap the benefits.

God bless each and every one of you.

*It is often the small steps, not the giant leaps, that bring about the most lasting change.*

*Queen Elizabeth II*



**Sheldon Carey**  
*M Ed, B Ed, Grad Dip*  
**Principal**

## PASTORAL CARE

*We pray for the needy and the poor; the homeless and those who are hungry.  
May those of us who have ample always be mindful of our duty to share  
and help others who are in need.  
May we always share with others the plentiful fruits of our own bounty.  
We ask this in Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## Learning at Home Tips.....

### Your Child's Teacher

Your child's teacher can provide advice about how you can help develop your child's literacy and maths skills. Some topics you could discuss with the teacher include:

- Your child's level of achievement on literacy and maths tasks.
- The goals your child is working towards in literacy and maths, and how you can support your child to achieve these.
- Strategies you can use to assist your child in areas that he or she finds difficult.

Your child's teacher is a highly qualified professional, unlike many professions, teachers keep learning and studying and taking on new research as educational, medical and scientific studies provide more information about the human brain and how we learn. This impacts pedagogical practices, what we know about the developing brain and how learning may be best supported.

Teachers strive to keep abreast of the impact of the new knowledge as it comes to hand. So, I strongly encourage you to talk to your child's teacher. Ask them how you can help, what you can do at home to support. To seek clarification regarding why the school or your teacher is doing something a certain way. For many of us the last time we were in a classroom learning was a significant number of years ago...things have changed... I can assure you all....So ask the questions, seek understanding and follow up on how you may be able to support at home. Our classrooms really are exciting and vibrant places of learning and studies.

# Congratulations to our Merit Award Winners

9 June 2023



# FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

## YEAR THREE LITURGY

The Year Three Liturgy will be held in the Year 3 classroom on **Thursday 15 June** commencing at 9am. All parents are welcome to attend.

## SACRED HEART OF JESUS

The Sacred Heart, also known as the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus is one of the most widely practised and well-known Catholic devotions, wherein the heart of Jesus is viewed as a symbol of "**God's boundless and passionate love for mankind**". The Year 1 to 6 classes will be attending mass on Friday 16 June to celebrate this feast day.



## LifeLink FUNDRAISER

Thank you to all staff, parents and students who made the LifeLink Cake Stall a total success by supplying and purchasing cakes, slices and biscuits. Your generosity will help many LifeLink agencies supporting people in need. The school community raised \$1,260. What an AMAZING effort! Well done St Lawrence.

## SCHOOL PHOTOS

School photos are scheduled for Friday 16 June 2023 for children in Kindy, Pre- Primary and Years 1 to 6. The Pre-Kindy class will have their photos on Thursday 15 June.

Children from Year 1 to 6 will need to be in their full winter uniform with their school jumper (No vest). Year 6 students will wear their leavers jacket. Children with long hair must have their hair tied up with blue or white accessories. Pre-Primary will need to wear their sports uniform.

Please return all envelopes on photo day. Every student must return their envelope even if they are not buying photos. The instructions for ordering online are on the envelopes. If parents require further ordering information, please contact Photo Hendriks on 9361 3206 or [www.photohendriks.com.au/faq-for-parents](http://www.photohendriks.com.au/faq-for-parents)

## Family Portraits

Family Pack envelopes will be distributed on Photo Day. Students are to take the Pack home and parents are to order online or enclose payment in the envelope provided and return it to school.

## Lost Envelopes

A small bundle of replacement envelopes are in the office for families who misplace their envelopes.

## New Students

Students who are new to the school and did not receive an envelope will be handed out an envelope by the photographers on Photo Day. The envelope will allow them to order online.

## WINTER CARNIVAL

Our Year 5 and 6 students are looking forward to participating in the Winter Carnival on **Thursday 22 June** We wish them well and know that they will be good sports players who will show respect towards their competitors and teammates.

## CYBER SAFETY PARENT MEETING

Just a reminder that the Cyber Safety Parent Meeting scheduled for 14 June **has been postponed** until next term. Further information will be sent closer to the day.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION Change of day and time**

First Holy Communion Mass has been changed from Saturday 26 August at 6pm to Sunday 27 August at 8.30am.

**SCHOOL REPORTS**

It is come to our attention that the wrong link has been used for parents to access Seqta for school reports. The updated school website with a new link to access electronic reports via SEQTA is below.

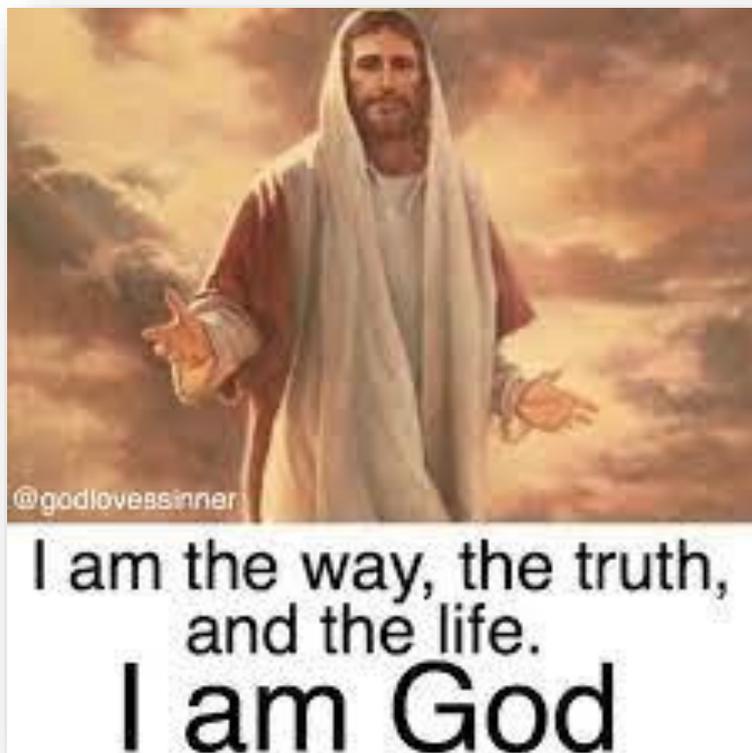
<https://stlawbal.engage.cewa.edu.au/>

Semester one reports will be available on SEQTA on Thursday 29 June.

All Pre-Primary families who do not have an older child in the school and new families will be sent a 'Welcome Email' to register for a SEQTA Engage Account. Existing families with a current account should check that they can log in prior to Thursday 29 June. If you are unable to log in, please follow the process below to create a new password. Please contact the school office if you have any concerns or queries.

1. Click on the "Forgot your password? Link
2. Enter your email address into the relevant box and click on "Reset my password"
3. Go to your email inbox and reset your password according to the instructions in the email.

Please be aware that the password will expire after one hour of being generated.



*Ms Kathleen Tranquille & Mrs Gabrielle Brennan, Assistant Principals*

# WINTER CARNIVAL

On **Thursday 22 June** all students in Years 5 and 6 will be participating in the Winter Carnival at Noranda Sporting Complex.

**Please note that this is a different date than the one originally listed in the calendar. I apologise for this and trust that it will not cause too much of an inconvenience.**

We will be playing against St Denis, St Gerard's, Our Lady of Lourdes and Majella in netball, soccer and football. The aim of these fun matches is to:

- 1) Promote fitness and enjoyment
- 2) Provide children with the opportunity to participate in sporting events within the wider Catholic School Community
- 3) Foster a positive attitude towards physical activity within a healthy, competitive environment
- 4) Develop netball, soccer and football skills.

## TIME

Students will travel by bus to and from the venue. They will leave school at approximately 9.00am. The matches will start at 10.00am and conclude approximately at 2:30pm. Students will arrive back at school by 2.45pm to be picked up as normal. Please allow for possible delays due to the weather.

## CLOTHING

Children are to wear their sport uniform - yellow St Lawrence sports shirt (no graduation shirts), red shorts/skorts, tracksuit and school hat. I also strongly recommend bringing a warm waterproof jacket for between games. Soccer and football team will be provided with playing shirts. Students will be allowed to wear their own sports shoes for the matches but are **NOT** permitted to wear any sports shoes with spike or studs.

## PROTECTIVE GEAR

All students participating in football must wear a mouthguard. These can be obtained through your dentist and are usually covered under health insurance or can be bought quite inexpensively at a chemist. If soccer players would like to wear mouth guards or shin pads this is their choice. Shin pads will require long socks (red would be best).

## WEATHER

As this is a winter competition, students will be required to play in the wet weather. The event will not be cancelled unless the weather is too severe for the students to participate. Principals from the various schools will make the decision to cancel the event based on updated weather forecasts.

## FOOD AND WATER

Students need to bring their morning tea and lunch with them, including a full water bottle. I recommend using the St Lawrence back-pack as there will be room for their warm jacket as well.

It would be great to see any parents who are available to come along and support on the day. Many thanks for your continued support and co-operation.

*Mrs Claire Major, Physical Education Specialist*

# UNIFORM SHOP NEWS

## WINTER UNIFORM

Students in Year 1 to Year 6 return back to school in Term 3 in their Winter Uniform.

Parents, please note that the last day the uniform shop will be opened this term is Thursday 29 June 2.30pm to 3.30 pm.

The uniform shop will be closed during the school holidays and will be re-open on Wednesday 20 July 8.30am to 9.30 am.

**Uniform Shop Opening Hours:**  
Wednesday 8.30am to 9.30am & Thursday 2.30pm to 3.30pm.

*Mrs Angie Miola, Uniform Shop Manager*

# CANTEEN NEWS

**PLEASE NOTE** that due to the Winter Carnival being moved to Thursday 22 June, the canteen will be **closed** on this day. Thank you for your understanding.

**End of term special** - Sausage sizzle and juice \$5 or Sushi & Juice \$7.  
Please pre order by Friday 23rd June.

If anyone is available tomorrow, my helper can no longer come in, please let me know.

We also require a helper Friday 23 June from 9-11am. If you can help, this would be greatly appreciated.

## Menu

We finally have Mini Calippo (\$1.50) and Icy Twist (\$2) back in stock!

Hot dogs will be substituted for Sausage sizzle this week.

*Mrs Christina Russo, Canteen Manager*



**Last day of term special  
29th June**



5 piece Sushi and juice \$7  
Katsu Chicken  
Teriyaki Chicken (gluten free)  
Cooked Tuna (gluten free)  
Vegetarian (gluten free)



OR  
Sausage sizzle & Juice \$5

**Please preorder  
by Friday 23rd  
June**